

Application No. 10/810,386
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;
- b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;
- c. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web; and
- d. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 3 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant nonwoven fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 4 (withdrawn). A method of making a structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame-retardant nonwoven fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first layer precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber;
- b. providing a second precursor web comprising a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber;
- c. providing a three-dimensional image transfer device;
- d. positioning said first precursor web atop said second precursor web;
- e. advancing said first and second precursor webs onto said three-dimensional image transfer device; and
- f. hydroentangling said first and second precursor webs so as to form said imaged nonwoven fabric.

Claim 5 (currently amended). A structurally stable hydroentangled flame-retardant, 100% nonwoven fabric comprising a nonwoven first layer and a nonwoven second layer, wherein said first layer comprises consists essentially of a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, whereby wherein said first and second layers are in a directly adjacent, hydroentangled united arrangement forming so as to form said fabric.

Claim 6 (currently amended). A structurally stable three-dimensionally imaged flame-retardant, 100% nonwoven fabric has a three-dimensional fabric pattern, and said fabric comprising a first layer and a second layer, wherein said first layer comprises consists essentially of a blend of lyocell fiber and modacrylic fiber and said second layer comprises a blend of lyocell fiber, modacrylic fiber, and para-amid fiber, whereby wherein said first and

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second layers are in a directly adjacent, hydroentangled united arrangement forming on a
~~three-dimensional image transfer device so as to form~~ said fabric.

Claim 7 (previously presented). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 8 (previously presented). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 5, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.

Claim 9 (previously presented). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said first layer comprises a blend of 60% lyocell fiber and 40% modacrylic fiber.

Claim 10 (previously presented). A flame-retardant nonwoven fabric in accordance with claim 6, wherein said second layer comprises a blend of 42% lyocell fiber, 37% modacrylic fiber, and 21% para-amid fiber.